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TELEPHONE (512) 853-8800  
FACSIMILE (512) 853-8801

FAX

To: Examiner Nguyen, V. (Art Unit 2126)

From: Robert C. Kowert

Fax: 703-372-9306

Pages: 13 (including cover sheet)

Phone:

Date: March 19, 2004

Re: U.S. SN 09/653,614 (5181-67400)

Phone: 512-853-8850

In a telephone conversation with Examiner Nguyen today, March 19, 2004, the Examiner verified that the U.S. Patent Office had no record of receiving the Response to Office Action for U.S. Serial No. 09/653,614, which was mailed February 20, 2004.

Per Examiner Nguyen's request, attached is a copy of the originally submitted Response to Office Action and supporting papers, as well as a Practitioner's Statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ROBERT C. KOWERT'.

Robert C. Kowert

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2126

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/653,614

Filed: August 31, 2000

Inventors:

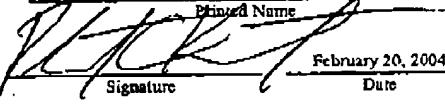
Slaughter, et al.

§ Examiner: Nguyen, V.  
§ Group/Art Unit: 2126  
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-67400

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Printed Name



February 20, 2004

Date

Title: Mechanism and Apparatus  
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RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF  
DECEMBER 22, 2003

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of December 22, 2003, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.